

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 and 12 as indicated and add new claims 13 through 17 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A fabric for use in papermaking comprising:
a woven body having respective edge portions on opposite sides of the body;
said body and edge portions having a top surface and a bottom surface;
respective transition points which are subject to flexure between said respective edge portions and said body;
reinforcing coating on said either top or bottom surface; and
said coating extending from at least one said edge portion in a non-linear pattern over said transition point and onto a portion of the body.
2. (Original) The fabric in accordance with claim 1, wherein said coating extends respectively from both said edge portions over said transition points and onto a portion of the body.
3. (Original) The fabric in accordance with claim 2, wherein said coating is located at said top surface and said bottom surface.
4. (Original) The fabric in accordance with claim 2, wherein said coating on said body is in a pattern which extends onto a portion of the body at varying distances from the transition point and terminates in the shape of curves, semi-circles or other projections.

5. (Original) The fabric in accordance with claim 3, wherein said coating on said body is in a pattern which extends onto a portion of the body at varying distances from the transition point and terminates in the shape of curves, semi-circles or other projections.
6. (Original) The fabric in accordance with claim 4, wherein the pattern on the top surface is not aligned with the pattern on the bottom surface.
7. (Original) The fabric in accordance with claim 5, wherein the pattern on the top surface is not aligned with the pattern on the bottom surface.
8. (Original) The fabric in accordance with claim 1, wherein said coating is a polymeric material and serves to reinforce the fabric in an area on both sides of and across the transition point.
9. (Original) The fabric in accordance with claim 2, wherein said coating is a polymeric material and serves to reinforce the fabric in an area on both sides of and across the transition points.
10. (Original) The fabric in accordance with claim 3, wherein said coating is a polymeric material and serves to reinforce the fabric in an area on both sides of and across the transition points.

11. (Original) The fabric in accordance with claim 9 which includes respective guides affixed to the bottom surface of the edge portions.
12. (Currently Amended) The fabric in accordance with claim 11, wherein said fabric is ~~used on~~ in combination with a papermaker's pulp thickening device.
13. (New) A fabric for use in papermaking comprising:
a woven body having respective edge portions on opposite sides of the body;
said body and edge portions having a top surface and a bottom surface;
respective transition points which are subject to flexure between said respective edge portions and said body;
reinforcing coating on said either top or bottom surface; and
said coating extends respectively from both said edge portions over said transition points and onto a portion of the body; and
said coating on said body is in a pattern which extends onto a portion of the body at varying distances from the transition point and terminates in the shape of curves, semi-circles or other projections.
14. (New) The fabric in accordance with claim 13, wherein said coating is located at said top surface and said bottom surface.
15. (New) A fabric for use in papermaking comprising:
a woven body having respective edge portions on opposite sides of the body;

said body and edge portions having a top surface and a bottom surface;
respective transition points which are subject to flexure between said respective edge portions and said body;
reinforcing coating on said either top or bottom surface; and
said coating extends respectively from both said edge portions over said transition points and onto a portion of the body and is located at said top surface and said bottom surface; and
wherein said coating on said body is in a pattern which extends onto a portion of the body at varying distances from the transition point and terminates in the shape of curves, semi-circles or other projections.

16. (New) The fabric in accordance with claim 13, wherein the pattern on the top surface is not aligned with the pattern on the bottom surface.

17. (New) The fabric in accordance with claim 15, wherein the pattern on the top surface is not aligned with the pattern on the bottom surface.